



## **box elder**

*Acer negundo*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

### **Features**

The box elder tree grows to 75 feet tall. Its light brown bark becomes deeply furrowed with age. The leaves are arranged opposite each other on the branches. They are divided into three, five, or seven leaflets. Leaflets are coarsely toothed and may be four inches long and three inches wide. The green male and female flowers grow in drooping clusters on separate plants. Fruits are winged seeds, each 1 1/2 to two inches long arranged in drooping clusters. The twigs are green.

### **Natural History**

The box elder grows in moist soil and often is found in bottomland forests and along streams. It also is a pioneer species in fence rows and abandoned farmsteads. It flowers from April through May.

### **Habitats**

bottomland forests

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.